

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 50-187 remain pending in the present application. Original claims 1-49 have been cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview held on December 8, 2003. The independent method claims 50, 73, and 96 that are submitted in this response were discussed, and the Examiner indicated that these independent method claims would be allowable.

The means-plus-function system claims 119-187 were not discussed during the interview, but these claims should be allowable for at least the reasons that method claims 50-118 are allowable, because the system claims correspond substantially in parallel with the method claims (but obviously the system claims, unlike the method claims, should be construed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 112, paragraph six).

The Office Action rejected various claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,200,902 and U.S. Patent No. 4,307,859. These rejections are rendered moot by cancellation of these claims in this response and the indication during the telephonic interview that the method claims, set forth herein, would be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 50-187 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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